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Title:

Policy speech by the Premier, Don Dunstan, delivered at the Norwood Town Hall, 8.00 p.
m., 24th June, 1975

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POLICY SPEECH BY THE PREMIER, DON DUNSTAN, DELIVERED AT THE
NORWOOD TOWN HALL, 8.00 p.m., 24th June, 1975.

I am proud to present to you the policy of my Government, a Government of proven unity, achievement and purpose.

This election is held now because of the harmful obstruction of the Liberals in the Legislative Council of this State.

Faced with an Agreement to merge the two railway systems in South Australia, Commonwealth and State, -

- * an Agreement fully protecting existing State advantages,
 - * an Agreement giving us massive immediate and long-term cash benefits,
 - * an Agreement supported in the Federal Parliament by their own Party Leader and members,
 - * an Agreement supported by the Railway workers -
- they threw it out!

When I accepted their challenge to have the people vote on it, they expressed shock and dismay, and said it was a plot on my part. No plot!

The cash benefits to South Australia of the Agreement amount now to \$100 per family per year, rising to over \$300 per family per year in ten years, and continuing to grow thereafter.

The extra money provided to South Australia under the Agreement over the next ten years alone is \$560-600 million, but the extra cost beyond that, if we had to continue to pay for railways' deficits, is \$200 millions. They have rejected a gain of \$600 million, and insisted on a loss of \$800 million.

We cannot afford such expensive Legislative Councillors, and we ask the people to tell them so and elect Labor Councillors. We seek a mandate to pass the Railways Agreement Bill. I have the agreement of the Commonwealth that on its passing, the Commonwealth will preserve all the intended benefits to South Australia.

Since this election is so much concerned with State finances, I must deal with these in detail. South Australia is already in the best financial position of any State.

Setting aside the question of the Railways transfer deals, after the results at the Premiers' Conference last week, what are the prospects for next year? Without the Railways deal, and keeping the petrol franchise tax on, South Australia's prospective deficit on revenue account would be about \$20 millions.

What about the Liberal-governed States? Without any Railways agreement, and with their present financial arrangements, and the money they got at the Premiers' Conference - that is, the same basis of calculation as I have just used for South Australia - Western Australia's prospective deficit is \$40 million, Queensland \$100 millions, Victoria \$180 millions and New South Wales over \$200 millions. New South Wales also has a petrol tax. If Liberals can manage better, as they claim, how come New South Wales has a prospective deficit ten times ours?

But what would be the result if the Liberal Party's policies were put into effect here? They are on record as saying that the petrol tax is unnecessary, and they would have rejected it in August anyway. That is another \$18 million. They have bitterly criticised Medibank and have said they would not bring it in, and that we were selling out the State by taking the money. That is another \$28 millions. They have said they would abolish rural land tax - and reduce rates and succession duty - say another \$4 million. So before they start looking at how to raise revenue of some kind, or where to make cuts in the Public Service, or promise anything new, they would be facing a deficit of \$70 million. The Treasury could not carry that!

When they criticise our financial management, they must say how they would manage the State. Where will they cut the Public Service, how many nurses, teachers, doctors, road and construction workers and clerks would they sack? Or where and how will they raise the extra money from the populace to pay for their rejection of existing tax and rejection of Commonwealth assistance?

I don't expect them to answer - I'm sure they don't know!

ELECTORAL REFORM:

Because of our successful battle with reactionary Legislative Councillors after the last election, at this election for the first time every voter will have a vote for both Houses of Parliament. There remains an anomaly. At the moment, Legislative Councillors serve a minimum of six years. If there is a general election within that time, they have their terms extended. Those now coming up for election have served eight years without facing electors.

We seek a mandate to alter the constitution to make half the Legislative Council go to the electors along with the House of Assembly at each general election, however long they have served.

We seek a mandate to provide optional preference voting at all elections. We believe people should be able to vote for the candidate of their choice, and not express a preference for any other unless they wish to.

The electorates of the House of Assembly are now very uneven in numbers. We ask for a mandate to redistribute the electorates of the House of Assembly on the Labor Party principle of one vote one value, based on single member electorates.

STATE TAXES:

I have never, at any election, shirked the responsibility of saying to the electorate that if it was necessary to maintain Government services to increase taxes, then we would do so, and how.

However, on this occasion, the arrangements which the Government has made with the Commonwealth Government for Medibank, for the Railways' transfer, and for the financial assistance grants, coupled with the assistance we have received for the Land Commission, Monarto, in welfare, housing, filtration of the water supply and unemployment relief works, enable me to promise a budget which will not only be balanced but put some money in the Bank. In addition, we will remove the petrol tax.

SUCCESSION DUTY:

We will alter Succession Duty in South Australia so that a widow or widower, without discrimination, may inherit an average-sized family home without payment of Succession Duty.

REMISSIONS OF CHARGES TO PENSIONERS:

In addition, we will be able to provide an increase in the maximum money amount in the Pensioner Remission Scheme on rates for water and sewerage, land tax and Council rates - water \$50, sewerage \$50, Council rates \$100, and land tax \$100.

WAGE INDEXATION:

To tackle inflation, I have for a year sought the co-operation of all Governments in supporting the indexation of wages, and confining wage increases to indexation, with provision for anomalies. At the Premiers' Conference last week, the Liberal State Governments finally agreed to this principle. We will introduce legislation to give effect to it.

PRICES JUSTIFICATION TRIBUNAL STATE JURISDICTION:

We will also, in accordance with submissions I have made to Premiers' Conferences, invest the Prices Justification Tribunal with State jurisdiction. Combined price control will thus operate between Federal and State bodies.

RESTRICTIVE TRADE PRACTICES:

We will refer to the Commonwealth Parliament power over intra-state restrictive trade practices, in order to ensure that these do not provide any price exploitation of the public.

LAND COMMISSION:

We will continue the work of the Land Commission, which has been outstandingly successful in stabilising the price of domestic building blocks in metropolitan Adelaide.

EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT:

The Government's development policy in industry has been outstandingly successful. We have attracted new industries and provided expansion for existing industries. We have set up the Industries Assistance Corporation, and enlarged the support of Government guarantees and the Housing Trust for industry in the State. In the last four years, we have spent over \$28 millions in providing additional factory premises. As a result, for the first time in a period of economic difficulty, South Australia does not have the highest level of industrial unemployment, but rather, the lowest.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT:

We have leapt ahead in Tourist Development. We now have Australia's highest income per head from tourism. We have developed the film industry with spectacular success.

THE MOTOR INDUSTRY:

My Government, with the support of the car industry, fought and beat the Canberra proposals to cut out local content and small car manufacture. We will pursue the setting up of Japanese small car manufacture here, to use existing capacity in our plants, and to give greater security to our large componentry industry.

Mr. Fraser attacks these proposals, and says on behalf of his Party that they will be an issue in this election. South Australia can't afford him, either!

REDCLIFF PROPOSAL:

The Government will pursue the development of the Redcliff Petrochemical Plant. We note that after a period of bitter criticism and opposition, some part of the Liberal Party now supports this. We welcome their accession to good sense!

FISHERIES:

Every South Australian Government previously has underspent on fisheries. We will this year increase expenditure 100% to enable the State to take advantage of the new survey vessel, and step up fisheries research and administration.

INDUSTRIAL PEACE:

South Australia has the best record of industrial peace in Australia. With 9% of the workforce, we have only 4% of the time lost in industrial disputes. But no-one today can contemplate the contests for income between investors and employees without seeing that there is an unacceptable collision course developing. This has already created disaster in the United States and in Great Britain. It is dangerously evident here.

We must stop the alienation of workers from the employer and the job. We should not maintain institutions which put a premium on competing interests, but rather, we should provide a means of co-operative development where all interests - investors, workers and the community, will have their proper say and be given proper regard.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN INDUSTRY:

The Government will pursue its policy of worker and community participation in industry. Over the next three years, we will establish the principle that decision-making should involve representatives of investors, workers and the community in all Government-owned undertakings. We will encourage private industry to involve itself in these developments. Such a process is necessarily evolutionary. It must take time. But from the lessons of the next three years, we should be able to lay down rules by which South Australians can grapple with this problem, which is bedevilling industrial society, and solve it!

WORKERS COMPENSATION:

The Government will revise the workers compensation legislation to eliminate the anomalies and difficulties which have arisen from it. We will also legislate to provide that there should be no civil action for damages in industrial disputes, but that these should be settled in the industrial tribunals specifically provided for that purpose.

LONG SERVICE LEAVE:

We will introduce this year a long service leave program for building workers, and subsequently extend it to casual workers in other industries. We will introduce paternity and maternity leave for the Public Service.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION:

We will re-introduce legislation prohibiting discrimination on grounds of sex or marital status, and removing the power of industrial tribunals to fix award rates on the basis of sex.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE:

In water supply, we will proceed with our development program, complete the filtration of Adelaide's water supply - the first 60,000 homes will have filtered water next year, - and proceed with the filtration of the water supply of the northern Spencer Gulf towns.

The final stage of sewerage for Port Pirie will be started this year; the \$5 million sewerage scheme for Port Augusta will be completed in 1978, and the Whyalla sewerage works will be upgraded to overcome the disabilities of the present works.

HEALTH COMMISSION:

Legislation is ready to set up, on the recommendation of the Bright Committee, a Health Commission in South Australia. On the recommendation of the working party already established, we will revise the Mental Health Act. We will proceed with the introduction of Medibank. From our own loan funds, we will spend \$83 million over the next three years on major hospitals development.

With the Medibank arrangement, we expect to get money to undertake these projects:

- * Hostels for intellectually retarded patients;
- * A major centre for the treatment of alcoholics and drug addiction;
- * New general hospital buildings at Whyalla and at Elizabeth, to replace the existing Whyalla Hospital and the Lyall McEwin Hospital;
- * A re-developed and extended Queen Victoria Hospital;
- * Substantial additions to the beds available at Modbury Hospital;
- * Nursing homes for the aged;
- * Improvements and additions to the Port Lincoln Hospital;
- * Extended community health and rehabilitation programs.

EDUCATION:

The Government record in education is the best in Australia -

- * South Australia leads all States in pre-school education provisions. We will now eliminate all fees in kindergartens affiliated with the Kindergarten Union, and proceed with the development of a universal pre-school system for four year-olds by the end of the decade.
- * Secondary school book allowances will rise by \$5 per student this year. Further increases will take place in later years.
- * In 1976 assistance to independent schools, including assistance with books, will be increased to 20% of the cost of funding a Government school. The 1975 grants to independent schools will be supplemented in line with recommendations of the Cook Committee.

- * The 1970 per capita payments will continue, and the additional sums will be allocated on a needs basis;
- * Stage Two of the Whyalla Technical College will be developed, and the Regency Park complex will be completed;
- * A Steering Committee will be established to recommend the conversion of the South East College of Further Education in Mount Gambier to the South East Community College. This will enable it to branch out into College of Advanced Education and University courses, where the south-eastern demand for such courses is shown.

LAW REFORM - CAPITAL PUNISHMENT:

The Government has a tremendous record in the area of law reform and consumer legislation. We seek a mandate to remove capital punishment from the Statute Book. We will improve and expand legal aid services established in the areas of law not provided for by the Australian Legal Aid Office. In association with the Law Society, we will stimulate and encourage neighbourhood law services, citizens' advice services, duty solicitor schemes, and debtor counselling.

LAW REFORM - MITCHELL COMMITTEE:

We will announce in the campaign the detailed legislative action we will take on the proposals already made by the Mitchell Committee on the reform of criminal and penal law and practices.

LAW REFORM - CONSUMER AFFAIRS:

We will expand the work of the Commissioner of Consumer Affairs to ensure that the public is fully protected under the Consumer Protection Laws which we have enacted. We will provide regional consumer affairs offices in Whyalla, Mount Gambier, Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Murray Bridge, Berri and other country centres. The Commissioner will be provided with special legal and research staff to give the fullest protection to the public.

LAW REFORM - INSURANCE COVERAGE:

We will pursue our program of law reform. Insurance law will be overhauled to ensure that people are not deprived of insurance cover for technical and trivial breaches of terms of policies. We will revise the law of landlord and tenant to provide tenants with protection from oppression, and to control bond and key money unreasonably demanded or forfeited by landlords.

LAW REFORM - PRIVACY:

The citizen's right to privacy is of ever-increasing importance in the modern world, and we plan to protect it by all reasonable means. We will now do so by a series of separate measures giving specific remedies for specific injuries, which will obviate the criticism of last year's measure.

LAW REFORM - TOWN PLANNING LEGISLATION:

The Labor Government was responsible for introducing town planning legislation of any force to this State. After a period of eight years, it is evident that the administration of planning requires a substantial revision, together with new legislation to ensure a smooth working of the planning process. This will be undertaken in the coming session of Parliament.

THE ENVIRONMENT - LAND SURVEY AND PARKS SYSTEM:

In order to ensure a proper control of our environment, we will carry out a land use survey of the whole State, to establish its ecological significance. We will continue to expand a comprehensive park system for public use, to conserve our unique flora and fauna, and the dedication of wet land areas along the River Murray.

We will legislate to provide for environmental impact statements listing examinations to be undertaken prior to the approval of new developments, and ensure active participation by the community in these procedures.

THE ENVIRONMENT -- LITTER:

We will re-present and insist on legislation providing for deposits on unreturnable drink containers. We will legislate to prohibit unsightly advertising, to control and reduce noise pollution, to identify and preserve buildings, works and areas of architectural merit or historical interest, and to establish a waste disposal authority to co-ordinate the disposal of refuse and industrial waste.

THE ENVIRONMENT - ANTI-LITTER EDUCATION & PARTICIPATION CAMPAIGN:

We have one of the most beautiful States in the world. We are determined to keep it that way! We will set up a campaign, similar to the successful water usage campaign of 1967, involving all sections and age groups in the community, to combat litter. We will heavily increase penalties for publicly littering the State, and introduce practical and swift means of enforcing these penalties.

THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - METROPOLITAN REGIONS & TRANSPORT:

We will support and develop the city centre of Adelaide, and the regional centres at Noarlunga and Elizabeth, as well as the redevelopment of the Port Adelaide shopping area. We will use our planning resources to ensure in developing Adelaide suburbs, a full range of services. We will upgrade public transport, provide a circular inter-suburban bus connection, and an east-west B-line service in the city.

Land that fulfils a conservation purpose and is used as urban farmland will be provided with a reduced rating system.

A special committee of the State Planning Authority will be set up to recommend criteria for conservation and development in the Adelaide Hills, and include representation of local interests.

THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT - REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

In regional development, we will pursue our program for providing area improvement and industrial development in the Iron Triangle area. In the Green Triangle area we will complete the necessary land use surveys and associated research to enable

a full submission to the Department of Urban and Regional Development for its adoption as a regional development area.

We will proceed with our plans for the development of Monarto. Without Monarto, Adelaide will develop as an urban sprawl from Gawler to Willunga, with all the traffic problems and the discomfort of Sydney and Melbourne.

Monarto must be developed if Adelaide is to remain the most attractive capital city in which to live.

However, Monarto will be planned flexibly, so that its rate of growth is tied in with the expected rate of growth of Adelaide's population. Over 80% of the funds have come from the Australian Government, and flexible planning can ensure that Monarto does not become a burden on the State's resources.

This is a full program! We have shown that we work and achieve for South Australia. We want your vote to let us get on with the job!

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